Please amend claims 16, 18, 19, 25, and 27 as follows:

C1

16. (Amended) A method for reducing vascular injury during reperfusion of an ischemic tissue in a subject which comprises contacting the vascular tissue within the ischemic tissue with a compound which inhibits expression of Early Growth Response Factor-1 (Egr-1) protein in the vascular tissue so as to reduce vascular injury in the ischemic tissue during reperfusion.

C2

18. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ischemic tissue is an organ to be transplanted into the subject.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ischemic tissue is part of a lung, a heart, a kidney, a vein, an artery, a stomach, a colon, a liver, skin, an eye, a pancreas, a brain, a finger, a toe or a limb.

C3

25. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the vascular injury comprises cell death, abnormal cell function, abnormal cell growth, or inability of a cell to maintain normal function.

C4

27. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the inhibitor is contacted with the vascular tissue before, during, or after reperfusion of the ischemic tissue.

Please add new claims 28-36 as follows:

28. (New) A method for reducing ischemic damage to tissue being transplanted into a subject, which comprises contacting the cells of the tissue with an inhibitor of Early Growth Response Factor-1 (Egr-1) *ex vivo* prior to the tissue's transplantation into the subject.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the inhibitor is a nucleic acid which comprises a polynucleotide sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence of Early Growth Response Factor-1-encoding mRNA.

C5

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the inhibitor is a compound which inhibits expression of the Early Growth Response Factor-1 Protein (Egr-1) in the cells of the tissue.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the inhibitor is a peptide, a peptidomimetic compound, a nucleic acid molecule, a small molecule, an organic compound, an inorganic compound, or an antibody or a fragment thereof.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the tissue is vascular tissue.

33. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the tissue is part of a lung, a heart, a kidney, a vein, an artery, a stomach, a colon, a liver, skin, an eye, a pancreas, a finger, a brain, a toe, or a limb.

34. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the tissue has been subjected to reduced or interrupted blood flow.

35. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the ischemic damage to the tissue comprises cell death, abnormal cell function, abnormal cell growth, or an inability of the cell to maintain normal function.

C5

36. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the inhibitor is a nucleic acid consisting essentially of the polynucleotide sequence 5'-CTTGGCCGCTGCCAT-3' (SEQ. ID. NO: 1).

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9-27 are pending and under examination in the subject application. By this Amendment, applicants have amended claims 16, 18, 19, 25 and 27, canceled claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-15 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer and added new claims 28-36. Support for new claim 28 can be found in the specification on page 53, line 16 to page 65, line 23. The remaining amendments are merely to introduce certain format changes. New claims 29-36 correspond to canceled claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13-15, respectively. Applicants maintain that this Amendment raises no issue of new matter. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 16 and 18-36 will be pending and under examination.

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii), applicants annex hereto as **Exhibit A** a marked-up version of the